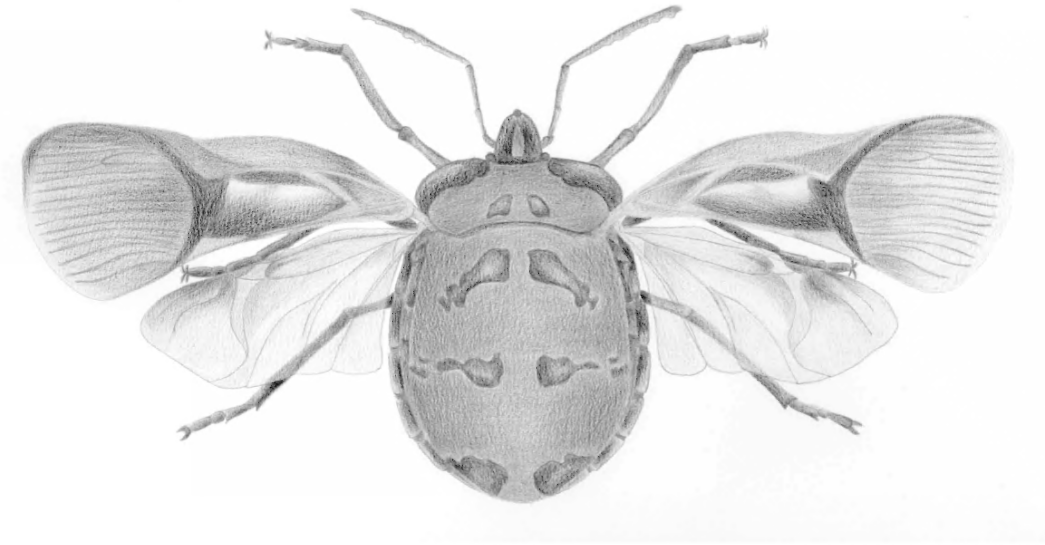
MYRMECIA

News Bulletin of the Australian Entomological Society Inc.
Volume 42, Part 1, February 2006
Australia Post Print Post Publication PP242296/00144.
Price $5.50 (including GST) ISSN 1323-6032



Front cover: Image by Loren Strong, Newcastle University of *Tectocoris diophthalmus*, the cotton harlequin bug, that won first place in the Student Colour section of the AES Illustration competition in 2005.

AUST. ENTOMOL. SOC.
EXECUTIVE ADDRESS
Australian Entomological Society
Executive
c/-Faculty of Rural Management
Charles Sturt University
PO Box 883, Orange, NSW 2800,
AUSTRALIA

OFFICE BEARERS

President
Ian Naumann
Office of the Chief Plant Protection Officer,
DAFF GPO Box 858
Canberra, ACT 2601
ian.naumann@affa.gov.au

Vice President
Murray Fletcher
c/- Executive Address above
Ph (02) 6391 3943
Fax (02) 6391 3899
murray.fletcher@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Secretary
Geoff Gurr
c/- Executive Address above
Ph (02) 6360 5551
Fax (02) 6360 5590
ggurr@orange.usyd.edu.au

Treasurer
Graham Thwaite
c/- Executive Address above
Ph (02) 6362 9498
thwaiteau@yahoo.com.au

Public Officer
E. Jane Wright
CSIRO Entomology
GPO Box 1700 Canberra ACT 2601
Ph (02) 6246 4183 Fax (02) 6246 4202
jane.wright@csiro.au

Promotions Officer
Glynn Maynard
DAFF
GPO Box 858, Canberra ACT 2601
Ph (02) 6272 3544
glynn.maynard@affa.gov.au

Journal Chief Editor
John Matthiessen
Principal Research Scientist
CSIRO Entomology
Private Bag 5 Wembley, WA 6913
Ph (08) 9333 6641 Fax (08) 9333 6646
Mobile 0418 933 399
John.Matthiessen@csiro.au

Journal Technical Editors
Ken L. Walker
Museum Victoria
GPO Box 666E, Melbourne Vic 3001
Ph (03) 8341 7432 Fax (03) 8341 7750
kwalker@musem.vic.gov.au

Alan Andersen
Tropical Ecosystems Research Centre
CSIRO Wildlife & Ecology
PMB 44, Winnellie NT 0821
Ph (08) 8944 8431
Fax (08) 8944 8444
Alan.Andersen@csiro.au

Geoff M Gurr
Faculty of Rural Management
Charles Sturt University
PO Box 883 Orange NSW 2800
Ph (02) 6360 5551
Fax (02) 6360 5590
ggurr@orange.usyd.edu.au

Grant Herron
NSW Department of Primary Industries
EMAI, PMB 8, Camden NSW 2570
Ph (02) 4640 6333 Fax (02) 4640 6300
grant.herron@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Tom Chapman
School of Biological Sciences
Flinders University, GPO Box 2100,
Adelaide SA 5001
Ph (08) 8201 2315 Fax (08) 8201 3015
chap0104@flinders.edu.au

PATRON
His Excellency, Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

SOCIETY SUSTAINING ASSOCIATES
Integrated Pest Management (Bugs for Bugs)

REGIONAL COUNCILLORS

Australian Capital Territory
Martin Steinbauer
Australian Plague Locust Commission
DAFF
GPO Box 858
Canberra
ACT 2601
Ph 02 6272 5075
Martin.Steinbauer@daff.gov.au

New South Wales
Deborah Kent
Project Officer (Forest Health)
Forest Resources Research
NSW DPI Science & Research
debbiek@sf.nsw.gov.au

Nigel Andrew
Zoology
University of New England
Armidale NSW 2351
Australia
nandrew@pobox.une.edu.au

Northern Territory
Vacant

Queensland
Kylie Anderson
Tropical Biology
James Cook University
PO Box 6811, Cairns, Qld 4870
Ph (07) 4042 1729
Fax (07) 4042 1319
kylie.anderson1@jcu.edu.au

Manoj Nayak
Entomology Building,
QLD DPI
80 Meiers Road
Indooroopilly, Queensland 4068

Richard Piper
PO Box 1056
Tully
Queensland 4853
richard@saspl.com.au

Papua New Guinea
Lastus Kuniata
Ramu Sugar Ltd
P.O.Box 2183,Lae 411
Papua New Guinea
Ph 675 474 3299;
Fax 675 474 3295
lkuniata@ramusugar.com.pg

South Australia
John Jennings
Senior Lecturer
School of Earth & Environmental Sciences
Waite Campus
University of Adelaide
Glen Osmond SA 5064
Ph: 61+8+8303 7277
john.jennings@adelaide.edu.au

Tasmania
Simon Grove
Conservation Biologist
Forest Research & Development
Forestry Tasmania
GPO Box 207
Hobart , Tas 7001
Ph (03) 6233 8141
Fax (03) 6223 8292
simon.grove@forestrytas.com.au

Victoria
Linda Thomson
CRCV Research Fellow
CESAR Zoology Department
University of Melbourne
Parkville, Vic 3010
Ph (03) 4344 6497
lthom@unimelb.edu.au

Western Australia
Sonya Broughton
Agriculture Western Australia
Division of Plant Industries
Baron-Hay Court, South Perth, WA 6151
Ph (08) 9368 3333
Fax (08) 9367 2625
SmBroughton@agric.wa.gov.au

SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES

Entomological Society of New South Wales
Martin Horwood
NSW Department of Primary Industries
Forest Resources Research
PO Box 100
Beecroft , NSW 2119
(02) 9872 0111
martinh@sf.nsw.gov.au

Entomological Society of Queensland
Gunter Maywald
PO Box 537
Indooroopilly, QLD 4068
gunter.maywald@csiro.au

Entomological Society of Victoria
Ian Endersby (acting)
56 Looker Road
Montmorency VIC 3094
Ph (03) 9435 4781
endersby@mira.net

SOCIETY HONORARY MEMBERS
Dr B.R. Champ
Dr I.F.B. Common
Dr C.N. Smithers
Dr G.H.S. Hooper
Dr E.M. Exley
Dr F.J.D. McDonald

MACKERRAS MEDALLISTS
1984 Dr J.A.L. Watson
1986 Dr R.W. Sutherst
1988 Dr T.R. New
1990 Dr R.A.I. Drew
1992 Dr E.S. Nielsen
1996 Dr M.P. Zalucki
2000 Dr P.G. Allsopp
2002 Dr G.P. Fitt
2004 Prof. A. Hoffman

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
James Ridsdill-Smith
CSIRO Entomology
Provate Bag No. 5, PO Wembley
Western Australia 6014
james.ridsdill-smith@csiro.au

SOCIETY WEB SITE
http://www.austentsoc.org.au

MYRMECIA EDITOR
Aaron Simmons
asimmons@csu.edu.au

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
The Vice President & Secretary are *ex officio* members of the Conservation Committee

Convenor
Robin V. Gunning
Ph (02) 6763 1128
Fax (02) 6763 1222
rgunning@enternet.com.au

Jonathan Majer (WA)
Ph (08) 9266 7041
Fax (08) 9266 2495
J.Majerj@curtin.edu.au

Tim New (Vic)
Ph (03) 9479 2247
Fax (03) 9478 1551
T.New@zoo.latrobe.edu.au

Claire Stephens (SA)
Ph (08) 8303 7276
Fax (08) 8379 4095
claire.stephens@adelaide.edu.au

Alan N. Andersen (NT)
Ph (08) 8944 8431
Fax (08) 8944 8444
Alan.Andersen@csiro.au

Don P. Sands (Qld)
Ph (07) 3214 2803
Don.Sands@csiro.au

MYRMECIA

CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE REPORT **1**

REPORTS FROM AGM **2**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 2
TRESURER'S REPORT 4
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT5
CHIEF EDITOR'S REPORT 5
MYRMECIA EDITOR'S REPORT 8
REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE 9

NEW MEMBERS **9**

ACCESSING AJE ELECTRONICALLY .. **10**

BOOK REVIEW **10**

REGIONAL NEWS **10**

NEW SOUTH WALES 10
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY 15
WESTERN AUSTRALIA 17
QUEENSLAND – FAR NORTH 18
QUEENSLAND - SOUTH 19
SOUTH AUSTRALIA 21
VICTORIA 22

COMING EVENTS **24**

SOCIETY AWARDS **24**

GENERAL INTEREST **25**

THE AUSTRALIAN ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY SHOP **27**

MEMBERSHIP NOMINATION FORM **27**

NOTICE

Statements made in *Myrmecia* do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Entomological Society. Items printed herein should not be reproduced without permission of the author of the material.

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Your Executive met in Orange on 13th December 2005 following the Invertebrates Conference at Canberra and the Society AGM. As most of the issues discussed at the Executive meeting related to finances, this report will have a distinctly financial slant.

One of our ongoing issues is finalising the accounting from the International Congress of Entomology in Brisbane. The Congress was held in the 2004/05 financial year but most of the preparation – collecting delegate payments and securing venues, caterers etc was from an earlier period. All of the transactions were handled by the ICE Committee with the assistance of the professional event organising company retained by the Committee. For purposes of GST, the Society's ABN was used. Once the affairs of the Congress were wound up, the current Executive was sent the documentation and proceeds at the end of the 2004/05 financial year. The surplus was previously reported (August *Myrmecia*) as around $100,000+.

When the Society's accounts were audited prior to the AGM, we discovered that a separate audit was required for the ICE. That revealed few GST payments had been made. The Balance Sheet for 2004/05 presented at the AGM and reproduced elsewhere in this issue of *Myrmecia* shows a liability for GST payable by the Society of $39,792, most of which is attributable to ICE transactions. BAS calculations made since the audit and going back to March 2003 delivered a further blow – the total GST

liability for the Society was almost $47,000. Since then we have been advised of an accumulated interest bill of around $25,000.

This latest impost is being "negotiated" with the Australian Tax Office. Whatever the outcome, all of this has the potential to savagely reduce the ICE surplus previously announced. It will therefore limit what the Society can do with this "one off" windfall.

To most members, much of the above will seem like too much detail. It does, however, highlight the complexities of the real financial world that we as scientists are not necessarily trained to understand. The ICE Committee and the respective Executives the membership empowered to run its affairs do so in an honorary capacity. We do our best but we are not infallible. The services of the Society's current auditor, Todd & Niven, Orange, are gratefully acknowledged. Special thanks to partner Mr Ron Winterton who truly had the Society's interests at heart as he trawled through the mountain of records presented to him.

Merchandise
Those who attended the Invertebrates Conference will have been constantly reminded of the AES Shop located in the foyer. Thanks to Jane Wright, Heather Cosson-Williams and of course our customers, $960 worth of merchandise was sold during the four days. These and subsequent sales will directly benefit the Society because the stock was paid for in full in the previous financial year. Jane continues to operate the AES Shop as circumstances permit. Details are on the Society's website (www.austentsoc.org.au).

Subscriptions
All 600+ members will have (or should have) received their 2006 subscription notice. More than half have been returned (paid) at the time this report was prepared. Many members took advantage of the "early-bird" discount that was offered. The notices were the product of the Society's new membership data-base which the Executive had commissioned. The "one-form-fits-all" concept and the tables on the reverse side was a deliberate attempt to alert members to the range of membership options so each could choose what suits their individual needs. Unfortunately, despite our best intentions, it did confuse about one third of the members who replied and we've needed to send out supplementary correspondence or messages.

If you have overlooked paying your subscription, please do it now to save the Executive even more work in chasing up those with subs outstanding. Please read the information carefully and note that details on the reverse of the form in the table at the top are for overseas residents who do not pay GST.

New Members
The Executive elected the following new members to the Society:

- Matthew Humphrey, University of South Australia. (Student Member)
- John Oakeshott, CSIRO Entomology, Canberra.

We welcome both of these people.

Graham THWAITE (Treasurer)

REPORTS FROM AGM

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The core executive formally met 12 times since the last AGM which was held as part of ICE 2004 in August 2004. We were pleased that our President **Ian Naumann** was able to attend a meeting earlier in the year to provide his support. We are grateful to **Aaron Simmons**, Minutes Secretary, and **Andrew Mitchell**, Membership Secretary, who have provided sterling support during the 15 months of our first term of office. It has taken most of this year for us to fully grasp the reins of our responsibilities but we feel we are now starting to forge ahead. It has been revealing to discover how much the Executive has to do, particularly the

Treasurer **Graham Thwaite** and Secretary **Geoff Gurr** and it has been very useful to have Andrew and Aaron supporting these two roles. A special mention should also be made of **Holger Löcker** who has been providing Graham and Andrew with computer support in transferring the membership files from spreadsheet into a user-friendly database format. In November, we also acquired the capable support of **Leanne Palmer** of Charles Sturt University, Orange, who will provide much needed clerical support for the Executive. We acknowledge the management of CSU who have approved Leanne's availability to support the Society in this way.

The Journal continues to be the flagship publication of the Society and has been under the stewardship of our new Chief Editor, **John Matthiessen**, since ICE. There have been a number of changes in the Technical Editor lineup as well and we thank members for accepting the responsibilities of these positions. No doubt John's report will provide details.

Editorship of the Society's News Bulletin, *Myrmecia*, has been in the capable hands of **Tish Silberbauer** since ICE but Tish steps down from this position at this meeting. We thank her for keeping this vital means of communication within the Society going and hope she enjoyed her role as News Bulletin Editor. We are, however, still looking for a replacement editor and are disappointed that no entomologist in permanent employment has come forward to take over this role. Members who are on "soft" money will always be moving on and are not usually able to commit to a position like this for more than a year or so. Without *Myrmecia* and the contributions from the Regional Councillors, members have no means of finding out about what other members of the Society have been doing.

Our Public Officer, **Jane Wright**, has been doubling up as Promotions Officer during the year with **Glynn Maynard** overseas. This follows on from her excellent work at the AES stand at ICE. Various high quality items of society merchandise, perfect as Christmas presents, are advertised on the AES website (under Society Shop) where you can browse from the comfort of your office. Orders placed at the AES stand or directly with Jane during this conference will be delivered prior to Christmas. Just the thing for those gifts with a difference.

The Conservation Committee appears to have been fairly quiet this year, at least as far as the Executive has heard but this group nonetheless has a significant role in connecting the Society with the environmental concerns of the wider community. This year, the Executive has established a new committee to consider the many and varied issues associated with entomological education. The Education Committee will be reporting at this AGM for the first time and we wish them great success in their deliberations. Any member who wishes to contribute to either of these committees, either as a member or by contributing ideas or comments, should contact **Robin Gunning** for conservation issues or **Dave Merritt** for education issues.

We acknowledge the continued support of the previous Executive, particularly **Ian Endersby** and **Nancy Endersby** who have not walked away from the new Executive and have provided us with considerable support during the year. We also acknowledge the continuing contribution of **James Ridsdill-Smith**, Immediate Past President, who still represents the society in many ways. During the year James sent a statement on entomological capability to the DEST audit and, with **Myron Zalucki**, responded to the Australian Academy of Science's audit of biological training in universities. These were issues that James raised in his Presidential Address at ICE and were partially the impetus which led to the formation of our new Education Committee. Former President **Andy Austin** has also been active, lobbying, with the support of AES, the Systematic Botany Society and the Society of Australian Systematic Biologists, on behalf of the Australian Biological Resources Study.

The Executive has moved to improve communication with its affiliated societies, the Entomological Society of Queensland, the Entomological Society of New South Wales and the Entomological Society of Victoria. Details of these groups now appear on the AES website (http://www.austentsoc.org.au) with links to the affiliated societies' own websites. Tish has also been encouraging Representative Councillors from those societies to contribute regularly to *Myrmecia* to advertise their activities across Australia and the Executive fully supports this. The AES also contributed some financial support for a symposium to mark the life of Pat Marks, organised by the Entomological Society of Queensland.

The Society nominated **Brian Kay** of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research for the Prime Minister's Prize for Science for 2005. Although the nomination was not successful, it ensured that the Society was included in this prestigious award and two members of the Executive attended the Award Presentation night at Parliament House in Canberra.

Ray Akhurst represented the Society at "Science meets Parliament" during the year and prepared an informative report for *Myrmecia*. This activity, initiated by the Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies (FASTS) has become an annual opportunity to communicate directly with those federal parliamentarians who have taken an interest in science and the environment. This Executive will endeavour to have the AES present at each SmP held during our term of office.

Finally, we thank all members who have contributed to the Society during the year, either as Regional or Representative Councillors, as members of the Society's committees, as local representatives of various institutes providing reports for *Myrmecia* or as members who have paid their membership fees on time.

Murray FLETCHER
VICE PRESIDENT

TRESURER'S REPORT

It has been a pleasure to serve on the Executive of the Society. While I have found the role of Treasurer a challenging and sometimes overwhelming experience, like other members of the Core Executive, I feel that I now better understand my job and the responsibility that comes with it. This is an appropriate place to acknowledge the help I have received from past Treasurer Ian Endersby, even as recently as last month! I also place on record the help I have received from Andrew Mitchell who, among other things, has become my IT operator for membership matters.

Today I need to frankly admit that I could have given many our members better service. Most of you have not yet got the receipts for subscriptions you asked for. Members who joined since this Executive took over are still waiting for back issues of Journals and Myrmecia. There are good reasons for this, but that does not help those members. Be assured, you will receive the back copies as soon as humanly possible. I hope that the next 10 months will see an improvement in the overall service to our members.

The issue of subscription arrears has raised its head again. The previous Executive commenced a staged reminder system. I started to implement this around May this year but other events overtook its completion. As a result, there is an uncomfortable number of members who are currently unfinancial. Unfortunately, these include most of the 18 new members we gained during the International Congress of Entomology. The Executive has commissioned the preparation of a new membership data-base which I hope will streamline the preparation of receipts and reminders.

I foreshadow a change in the subscription arrangement which will be put to the 2006

AGM. Following a change about two years ago from a January-December to a July-June financial year, subscription renewals are now out of step by six months. Your Executive proposes to realign these by changing the subscription year to coincide with the financial year. The "early-bird" discount now offered will also be part of the review as is has become complicated since the introduction of the GST. If you want proof of that, simply look at the table on the reverse of the new subscription notice!

Finally, you will see that the audited financial statement is dated very close to this AGM. The Executive had no choice but to seek professional assistance to prepare the accounts associated with the International Congress of Entomology and then have them separately audited before the Society accounts could be finalised. The good news is that the Society has gained a substantial surplus from ICE and you will discuss a special use for this at the AGM.

On your behalf, I acknowledge the untiring efforts of Public Officer Jane Wright who, through the AES Shop at Congress and since from other venues, she has continued to market the AES merchandise. This has also added significantly to the income of the Society in 2004/05 and with members support, will continue to do so.

Graham THWAITE

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

The society currently has 625 members on its books, which is a considerable improvement from the previous year in which membership numbers fell below 600. This number includes 439 full members, 48 student members, 91 retired members, 18 joint members, six honorary members, three affiliated societies, two sustaining associates, and 18 Myrmecia-only subscribers. Twenty members resigned in the past year and two members have been excluded from the society since May 2004. Thirty-three members have been suspended for non-payment of subscription fees since December 2003.

One society member passed away in the last year, Peter Birks. He was elected to the society in 1965. An obituary appeared in the May 2005 edition of Myrmecia. Past member Derek Maelzer (elected 1988, resigned 2002) also passed away, as did two entomologists who were not current members of the society, Dan Smith (Queensland) and Walter Wright (New South Wales).

The society membership records have been updated from the existing MS Excel spreadsheet format to a more user-friendly MS Access database. The old system was becoming unwieldy, with 36 possible permutations of membership type, journal and newsletter subscription type, overseas versus Australia-based memberships, and earlybird discounts. The new system should reduce errors and will streamline record keeping. Many thanks to Holger Löcker for taking on this onerous task.

Andrew MITCHELL
Membership Secretary

CHIEF EDITOR'S REPORT

Tribute to Peter Allsopp

I pay tribute to Peter Allsopp who was the Chief Editor of the Australian Journal of Entomology from August 1990 (Volume 29, Part 3) until November 2004 (Volume 43, part 4). Peter oversaw its renaming from The Journal of the Australian Entomological Society to the Australian Journal of Entomology with Volume 35, Part 1 in 1996 and the transition from in-house publishing to our present arrangement with Blackwell Publishing that began with Volume 37, Part 1 in 1998. Peter has made a major and enduring contribution to the Society over 14 years as Chief Editor. I also particularly thank Peter for his assistance in making my transition to Chief Editor so smooth and wish him well in his 'new life'.

Vol	Part	Published	Pages	Papers
43	4	Nov 2004	48	7
44	1	Feb 2005	88	15
44	2	May 2005	129	17
44	3	Aug 2005	111	15

Aims and Scope of the Australian Journal of Entomology

The Australian Journal of Entomology is the premier vehicle for the publication of entomological research in the south-west Pacific region. It can only maintain this position if it continues to receive quality manuscripts and it minimizes the time between submission of a manuscript and publication of the paper. It can improve its standing through publishing a wider range of top-quality papers that are cited in other works and by extending its circulation.

It would seem that the Journal is currently perceived to be regional, focussing only on insects that occur in Australia. This is a disadvantage and we need to put some effort into changing that perception. The name of the Journal does not need to change, but it is important to communicate the change in focus to members and to the global community. As part of that process, the aims and scope in print and online have been changed from 'within an Australian context' to a focus on research that is 'of interest to Australian entomologists', regardless of whether or not the insects studied occur in Australia.

Production

Production statistics for the Australian Journal of Entomology since the last AGM:

Production of the special issue (Volume 43, Part 3, July 2004) for the International Congress of Entomology caused a backlog in publication of regular papers. This has now been cleared by negotiation with Blackwell Publishing to increase the number of pages in Volume 44. Publication of Volume 44, Part 4 is imminent and there are just sufficient accepted manuscripts in hand to fill the next issue (Volume 45, Part 1). This is probably the most desirable position in which to be.

During the period July 2004-June 2005, the flow of manuscripts was (last year in brackets):

Manuscripts:

received	106 (84)
accepted	71 (54)
rejected/withdrawn/lapsed	35 (30)

As can be seen, the number of manuscripts received during the year was higher than that reported at the last AGM, continuing the recent trend. Acceptances continue to run at around two-thirds of submissions.

Electronic Manuscript Submission and E-Proofs

Blackwell Publishing demonstrated their 'Manuscript Central' electronic submission and monitoring system to the editorial team at our editorial and production teams meeting in September 2005. At this time, we feel that the cost is prohibitive for a society of our size. However, it is clearly the way of the future and I would regard it as only a matter of time before market penetration ensures that it becomes cost-effective for the Society.

Recent authors would have noted that proofs are now despatched electronically to them, to me and to the publishers direct from the typesetters using an 'E-proof' system that incorporates timelines and reminders. This is part of the ongoing process of seamless electronic handling.

Page Charges

In response to some concerns about last-minute requests for exemption from page charges, I have implemented a system that aims to ensure that authors commit to the charges, and budget accordingly, at the time their manuscript is accepted. This is aimed at overcoming any unforeseen budget effect of authors moving elsewhere or grants terminating between acceptance and publication or invoicing, which may be some considerable time.

It is important to note that all exemptions from page charges become a loss of revenue in full to the Society, as the Society receives all the revenue over a threshold defined in our contract with Blackwell Publishing. There is no intention of making hardship for those who genuinely have no financial support or would have to rely on their own resources, such as in the case of retired contributors. Rather, it aims to establish capacity to pay and agree on any alternative arrangements at the time of acceptance rather than being presented with a fait accompli after typesetting.

Electronic Access to Back Issues

I am exploring the feasibility of having all back issues of the Journal digitised and made available electronically. Currently, electronic access goes back to 1999 (Volume 38). Blackwell Publishing can digitise the back issues and put them up on their web site. It seems that the cost is quite reasonable if a full, well-preserved set of earlier issues can be obtained and particularly if it can be destroyed for the scanning. At time of writing, I am awaiting details of the likely cost to report to the Executive.

Performance and promotion

The availability of Blackwell's journals electronically and links to the Google search engine have increased dramatically the availability of papers published in the Journal. In 2004, there were 26,480 article downloads, compared with 20,340 in 2003, an increase of 23%. The number of individuals who are emailed the contents page of each issue stands at 1286.

The impact factor of the Journal was 0.495 in 2002, 0.433 in 2003 and 0.486 in 2004.

Blackwell Publishing mounted a stand at the International Congress of Entomology in 2004 and continues to target the Journal at exhibitions at relevant major conferences and meetings, direct marketing through promotional material, especially in Europe, North America and East Asia, and through advertising in other Blackwell Science journals.

Enhancing the Journal's Status

The editorial and publishing teams have discussed ways to continue to raise the status of the Journal. One suggestion is to have occasional special issues. This would require a dedicated coordinator. If any members have in mind an idea and contributors for a special issue, please contact me to discuss it. This idea will only work effectively if we have 'bottom-up' action.

Editorial Team

There have been some changes in the Technical Editor team during 2005. Alan Andersen, who has provided twelve years' service as a Technical Editor decided that it was time to relinquish that role. I particularly thank Alan for his thorough service as a Technical Editor over such a long period.

Ken Walker and Geoff Gurr continue to contribute great service to the society as Technical Editors. I welcome Grant Herron and Tom Chapman who took on the role of

Technical Editors during 2005 and are making an excellent contribution to the process of reviewing manuscripts. Thank you, Grant and Tom for taking on this role. We continue to monitor the workload and regularly review the need for an extra Technical Editor.

The members of the production team at Blackwell Publishing Asia (Rose Williams, Lisa de Kleyn, Eugene Tan and Suneel Jethani) have been vital in the smooth running of the journal and in meeting production schedules. Their professionalism, enthusiasm and dedication make them an absolute pleasure to work with.

On behalf of the Technical Editors I also thank the Editorial Board and the many referees who have given expert opinion on manuscripts. These contributions are vital to satisfying both readers and authors and enhancing the status of the Australian Journal of Entomology.

John MATTHIESSEN

MYRMECIA EDITOR'S REPORT

The News Bulletin of the Australian Entomological Society, *Myrmecia*, has continued to be published to schedule during late 2004 and 2005. The main issue flagged by the previous Editor, namely apparent lack of enthusiasm from members, has not abated this year, although by dint of begging, the kindness of contributors, and the inclusion of half-page pictures, I have managed to fill each issue to the minimum requirement as determined by the printing process (24 pages). I would like to echo the comment from Laurence last year that *Myrmecia* is the main forum for communication between AES members and, as such, has the potential to be so much more than it currently is. It is difficult not to compare it unfavourably with its RES equivalent, *Antenna*.

Having got that off my chest, I would like to extend a hearty thanks to all who contributed, particularly as contributions were overwhelmingly punctual and in a format that enabled me to transfer articles to Adobe Pagemaker without too many problems.

The major changes to *Myrmecia* this year result from a policy change at the Journal such that book reviews are now carried in *Myrmecia* and not AJE. The process for this turnover was a little rough because of a breakdown in communication between Blackwells, the Journal Editorial team, myself and the membership, but I believe has now been resolved.

I have made a start (if a single article in a single issue can be considered as such) in soliciting biographies / profiles from prominent AES members (initially, winners of the Society's Mackerras medal). I would like to encourage the future Editor to continue with this (principally, contacting interesting folks and nagging them until they give in). The thing that binds members of the AES is an interest and passion for both insects and the science of entomology; I find reading the accounts of prominent entomologists and learning about what drives them in entomology invigorating.

I will not be continuing as Editor next year, as forecast in the last several issues of *Myrmecia*. I would like to thank the Executive and Members of AES for their support of me in this role. I found it fascinating, both in terms of getting to know the membership through their contributions, and in learning the mechanics of getting a magazine such as this from concept to printing and distribution. I will, of course, be available to help whoever takes this on after me.

Tish SILBERBAUER

REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The education co1mmittee was established late in 2005. Its members are:
Ms Melinda Moir, Curtin University of Technology
Dr Mike Keller, The University of Adelaide
Dr David Merritt, The University of Queensland (Initial Chair)
Dr Geoff Allen, The University of Tasmania
Dr Murray Fletcher (AES Vice President) *ex officio*
Dr Geoff Gurr (AES Secretary) *ex officio*

The committee's role is to promote entomological education at all levels. The committee is interested in ideas or suggestions that would help fill this role.

Currently, entomological education is at risk in Australia because a comprehensive set of courses is no longer offered at any one institution and some specialties are no longer taught at all. Currently the committee is preparing a Collaboration and Structural Reform Fund application that would help develop a national entomology curriculum for undergraduate and postgraduate tertiary education. It will also prepare professional development courses for those employed in the pest control industry.

NEW MEMBERS

This continues the profiles of members who have joined during the last 12 to 18 months (see August 2005 issue). Editing of material originally submitted has been necessary.

Andrea Canzano was elected to the Society in September 2004. She graduated BSc with Honours from James Cook University, Cairns, having worked on two tropical butterflies. Andrea is now undertaking her PhD under the supervision of Dr Tim New at LaTrobe University in Melbourne. Her project focuses on the current ambiguities of management for the threatened Eltham copper butterfly, *Paralucia pyrodiscus lucida*.

Lynita Howie was also elected in September 2004. She joined as a Student Member undertaking a Master of Philosophy degree at Griffith University examining feeding patterns of Queensland fruit fly and the implications for control. She had previously completed her BSc (Biology) through Macquarie University in Sydney (1998) and then continued on to gain her Graduate Diploma of Education.

Joanne Dawson (elected April 2005) is an entomologist with the Department of Primary Industries, Victoria, at Tatura. She has worked with the DPI for nearly nine years on integrated pest management of fresh market tomatoes. The project started with establishing the pest, disease and beneficials complex and led to the development of monitoring protocols. The project continued with studies on resistance and migration of the primary pest *Helicoverpa*. A recent aspect of the work looks at trap plants and plant volatiles to help control *Helicoverpa* and provide a refuge for beneficials to enhance biological control of secondary pests.

Elizabeth McGuire (elected October 2005) is employed by Murray Valley Winegrape Growers, Mildura Victoria as its Industry Development Officer. Prior to her current appointment, Liz was Horticultural Agronomist for the Mildura Co-operative Fruit Company. Her interest in entomology started as an undergraduate in an agronomy course at UNE Armidale (NSW) which led to a Bachelor of Rural Science degree. She is keen to expand on her limited experience with insects through her present employment and as a member of AES.

Amanda Kobelt was also elected in October 2005. She is an entomologist with the Department of Primary Industries, Victoria at Werribee and is currently working on invertebrate biodiversity in native grasslands. The aim is to show the potential benefits of having native grassland and its associated invertebrate fauna adjacent to cropping systems for pest control. Amanda

believes the project will lead to further work in the area of conservation biological control by introducing native vegetation and beneficial native insects into cropping systems.

Graham THWAITE

ACCESSING AJE ELECTRONICALLY

An increasing number of members of the Society have opted to view the *Australian Journal of Entomology* electronically. For this they pay a slightly reduced subscription. Comments from some members such as "haven't seen a journal all year" led me to suspect that some members are unsure of the procedure for gaining access to the Journal after their subscription is registered.

Staff from Blackwell Publishing Asia, the publisher of our Journal, will forward the details to all members for whom we have a valid email address prior to the publication of the February 2006 issue. It will include links to two of Blackwell's websites. Those who have paid for electronic access will need their AES Member Code.

Once the access is established, it will allow you to peruse all back issues of AJE that have been published by Blackwell. The Executive is currently investigating having the remainder of the back-issues to the 1960s (published by the Society) digitised to allow members to access the entire journal series.

Members who receive *Myrmecia* electronically (including all Student Members) do so via email. The newsletter is sent direct to your email address from Orange.

Please contact Andrew Mitchell at andrew.mitchell@dpi.nsw.gov.au if you experience problems with any email communication from the Society.

Graham THWAITE (Treasurer)

BOOK REVIEW

I have a copy of the book 'Why does the world stay green? Nutrition and survival of plant eaters' for review. If anyone is interested in reviewing this book please contact me on asimmons@csu.edu.au

REGIONAL NEWS

NEW SOUTH WALES

Orange Agricultural Institute

Melinda Moir spent a week in Orange sorting through the planthoppers of the tribe Achilini (Fulgoromorpha: Achilidae), identifying the genera, particularly those described recently in Russian by **Alexandr Emeljanov**. She and Murray then constructed a key to the Australian genera which was added to the keys provided on the ASCU website.

The 2005 Entomologists of Orange Christmas Lunch was a well attended affair with almost 30 entomologists from OAI, NSW DPI Head Office and Charles Sturt University enjoying the fare at the Parkview Hotel in Orange. Boosting the numbers were **Melinda Moir** from Melbourne University and **David James** from Washington State University with his wife and child who all chose a good week to visit Orange. David went on to the CSU campus to present a seminar, mainly to the group who had attended the lunch.

Murray Fletcher spent a week in Kuala Lumpur in November with **Malipatil** running a workshop on identification of Hemiptera. Fifteen participants from 10 ASEAN nations worked through collection techniques, morphology, anatomy, use of traditional and interactive keys, slide making and terminology. The workshop was part of the SPS Capacity Building Program coordinated by OCCPO and **Ian Naumann** dropped in for a visit en route between Vietnam and Thailand.

Peter Gillespie, Andrew Mitchell and **Murray Fletcher** attended the Canberra invertebrate conference. Murray was a member of the organising committee and has been visiting Canberra once a month for the past year to attend committee meetings. Andrew organised an in-depth and challenging symposium on what is going right and what is going wrong with barcoding and the need to integrate this technology with other forms of diagnostic technique. David James from Washington State Univ and Melinda Moir from Univ of Melbourne.

Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute (EMAI), Menangle, NSW

Grant Herron reports that his Insecticide Resistance group has secured the services of **Martin M^{c}Loon**, a full time CR funded molecular biologist. Martin is to extend the scope of the resistance group by studying the genetic determinants of pesticide resistance in thrips, aphids and mites. Grant's time has been spent preparing a new funding application for Horticulture Australia Limited and starting a new cotton study dealing with the resistance management of aphids, mites and mirids in cotton. **Garry Levot's** parasitology group is concluding a successful small hive beetle study that has identified an effective control. Garry has identified a need to develop a commercial product and will seek funding for that purpose. EMAI's fruit fly production facility continues to produce flies for sterile release programs in South Australia, Victoria and NSW. **Laura Jiang** says production is currently 17 million flies per week despite earlier problems with temperature and humidity. **Victor Rajakulendran** is about to commence chemical efficacy trials against waratah bud borer and continues his study to reduce chemical inputs into Asian vegetables with improved IPM.

University of New England, Armidale, NSW.

Peter Gregg (Agronomy) has been appointed Chief Scientist with the Cotton Catchment Communities CRC. Peter will divide his time between UNE and Narrabri. **Rowan Shee** has begun a Masters in Natural Resources. He is assessing biodiversity in remnant urban bushland to assist future urban planning, using dung beetles as bio-indicators. Rowan is supervised by **Nigel Andrew** (Zoology).

Klaus Rohde (Emeritus Professor - Zoology) has had two books published recently: *Marine Parasitology* 2005 (ed. K. Rohde) CSIRO Publishing, and *Nonequilibrium Ecology* (K. Rohde) 2005 Cambridge University Press.

School of Physical, Environmental and Mathematical Sciences, The University of New South Wales at the Australian Defence Force Academy, Canberra.

The Insect Monitoring Radar (IMR) at Bourke, NSW operated well through 2005 and the second unit, at Thargomindah, Qld, is now also up and running. Migratory activity was detected through much of the spring at Bourke, with the echoes having the characters of moths until December when targets with locust characters started to appear. Of particular interest were intense movements to the south and southwest on 28-30 August, which presumably were the lesser budworm moths that reached South Australia in great numbers at that time, and northward movements of locust-type echoes in December when Australian Plague Locust Commission surveys were showing that locust populations from the Riverina were moving north through NSW and into southwest Qld. **Alistair Drake** and **Shane Hatty** made a number of trips to Bourke and Thargomindah during the year to service the radars, including one in June that had to be abandoned because of heavy rain.

Hugh Dingle (Univ. of Qld) visited ADFA for a few days in August to work with Alistair on a paper they are co-authoring on migration across taxa, and Alistair visited Melbourne later that month to discuss termite-detection technologies with Termatrac Pty Ltd. **Haikou Wang** returned from his two-year appointment at Cambridge University (UK) in October and temporarily has a desk in the School to get some writing done.

Nigel ANDREWS

Centre for Entomological Research and Insecticide Technology (CERIT), University of New South Wales

It's been quite a while since CERIT contributed to Myrmecia, so here's a brief update.

CERIT significantly expanded its role of assisting the Urban and Commercial Pest Management Industry in 2005. Following our completion of Quality Criteria Documents on Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for the industry and their acceptance by the recently established PestCert Certification Scheme, CERIT was given the job of appraising CPD activities and allocating CPD points. As a result, **David Lilly, Patrick O'Rourke** and **Chris Orton** have been honing their appraisal skills. **Chris Orton** also has participated in the PSITAB NSW Pest Management Industry Sector Committee, the PestCert CPD Management Committee, and chaired the Pest Management Insurability Committee and the AEPMA Working Party on a Code of Practice for Bed Bug Management. If you are interested in the latter, go to **Stephen Doggett's** web site http://medent.usyd.edu.au/bedbug/ and click on 'Bed Bug Code of Practice'. Stephen (email address below) is co-ordinating the writing of the Code of Practice on behalf of AEPMA.

Back in July 2005 CERIT farewelled **Merilyn Baker** after more than 18 years of service here at the infamous CERIT 'Tramsheds'. The lure of the family business was a wee bit stronger than the call of the cockroach and fly cultures..... Merilyn's considerable administrative and entomological skills are sorely missed!

After completing the joint CERIT-Starpharma project, **Chris Virgona** has reverted to 'Visiting Senior Research Fellow' status. However currently he is recuperating from some foot surgery and is looking forward to the removal of the cast before the next phase of the treatment. We wish him a speedy recovery and hope to have the pleasure of his company again soon.

Much CERIT energy was expended in 2005 in organising two Industry Briefing Symposia. The first, *Pests of Disease and Unease*, on the biology and management of arthropods of medical importance in Australia, was a joint effort with **Assoc. Prof Richard Russell, Stephen Doggett** and the team at Department of Medical Entomology, ICPMR, Westmead. The symposium was extremely well received and the papers have been in much demand since the event. To purchase a copy email Stephen at: stephend@icpmr.wsahs.nsw.gov.au.

The second symposium: *Termite Technology and Quality Management* focussed on recent advances in termite detection, inspection and management and launched new PestCert requirements for implementing a quality management system in a pest management business. It was also well received by the attendees who demonstrated in high feedback scores that they especially appreciated the efforts of **David Lilly** and **Patrick O'Rourke** in organising the logistical arrangements of the event.

As for CERIT, 1 July 2006 will be our 20th anniversary as a self-funding centre and the challenges continue. After three years answering directly to a succession of DVCs Research, we (like all commercial units of the university) recently have been subjected to yet another review process and now are to be placed into the Faculty of Science

Entomologists of Orange Christmas Lunch 2005 at the Parkview Hotel enjoyed the added company of David James from Washington State Univ and Melinda Moir from Univ of Melbourne.

Lawrence Mound inspecting salt bush thrips at Virginia, SA.

answering to Dean Prof. Michael Archer, who I am happy to report, understands the need to have entomology represented within his Faculty. However to move forward, there now is the task of demonstrating in a new Business Plan, how CERIT's self-funding status can be maintained while addressing a new requirement to pay rent and additional 'user-pays' charges to the University. Is anybody out there REAL good friends with Bill Gates???

I've mentioned PestCert a couple of times above so a brief explanation is called for. Back in 2001 a crisis developed in the urban and commercial pest management industry. For a variety of reasons, including a growing level of litigation, the demise of a major industry insurer following the collapse of HIH and changes in training requirements for Pest Management Technicians, the industry realised that it was at risk of becoming uninsurable. A number of industry workshops, symposia, surveys and conferences ensued and the industry peak body AEPMA began moves to establish an independent accreditation scheme aimed at improving training, professional development and professionalism of urban pest managers generally. The scheme, which has been named PestCert was launched in 2005 and now is becoming well established in the industry. It is run by PestCert Limited, a non-profit company Limited by Guarantee, governed by a Board (initially of appointed members but to be elected by company members in future) and advised by Technical, Advisory and CPD Management Committees drawn from appropriate industry groups. Accreditation is voluntary, auditable, based on an established fee structure and requires agreement to achieve specified levels of basic training in a specified time frame, Continuing Professional Development at the rate of 80 CPD points per year, signoff on a Code of Conduct and 'Individual', 'Storage', 'Vehicle' and 'Business' Accreditation Requirements. It is expected that in time, PestCert will 'raise the bar' of professionalism in the industry and enable consumers to differentiate the Professional Pest Managers from 'the rest'. If you are interested to learn more about the scheme, visit the PestCert website at www.pestcert.com.au.

While I'm referencing websites, I should mention that CERIT's site recently has been moved to www.cerit.unsw.edu.au and updated - so any links you may have had to our old site will soon result in the dreaded 'The URL could not be found' message.

Chris ORTON

University of Sydney – Faculty of Agriculture

Welcome to **Sarah Mansfield** the new Lecturer in Agricultural Entomology at the University of Sydney, where she started in November 2005. Sarah's research interests are insect predator and parasitoid ecology within agricultural systems, particularly in relation to biological control. Originally from Auckland, Sarah was recruited from Forest Research in Rotorua, NZ, where she'd been working for two years. This is Sarah's second job in Australia – from 2001-2003 Sarah was a post-doctoral fellow with CSIRO Entomology, based at the Australian Cotton Research Institute in Narrabri. Sarah is looking forward to developing a research group and teaching programme here at Sydney.

NSWDPI Forest Resources Research - West Pennant Hills

The entomology staff levels at Forest Health Management as the section is now known has changed since the last time the section committed pen to paper or should I say fingers to keyboard. We are down one entomologist with **Darren Waterson** having left last year for greener vegetable patches over at Flemington Markets. Darren is working still with NSWDPI but instead of surveying softwood and eucalypt plantations for insects and diseases he is now spending his time testing pesticide residue levels in a variety of common vegetables from strawberries to silverbeet and on up to Lebanese cucumbers. However, the other usual entomological suspects are still here with **Christine Stone** currently working on "Bell Miner associated dieback" on the North

Coast of NSW. Christine has just finished supervising **Paul Angel** a postgraduate student from the School of Resource Science and Management, Southern Cross University, Lismore. Paul has recently submitted his PhD thesis titled "The pest status and management of *Creiis lituratus* (Hemiptera: Psyllidae). Congratulations Paul.

On the termite front **Martin Horwood** is still here making in roads into the development of new termite treatments for power poles. Martin has also recently updated the much in demand Forest NSW termite leaflets they can be found on the following web site http://www.forest.nsw.gov.au/research/.

Another long-term entomologist **Deborah Kent** is working on insect and disease surveys of the Forest NSW plantation estate. Deborah is also involved in a joint project with **Judy King**, Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, testing the susceptibility of southern pine hybrids to Sirex wood wasp.

Research associate **Graham Goodyear** has been busy utilising the FCNI collection on his research on the taxonomy of the family Bostrichidae.

Deborah KENT

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Staff at the Australian Plague Locust Commission were kept very busy before Christmas spraying large populations of Australian plague locust in parts of the Riverina, NSW. They are now busy surveying locust populations throughout the APLC's area of operation. Commission staff are particularly concerned by the recent rapid and substantial increase in locust numbers in the Channel Country of Queensland. While the other staff were busy spraying locusts in the Riverina, **Martin Steinbauer** spent twelve days in Bourke light trapping locusts using four portable 180W mercury vapour lamp light traps.

Martin is collaborating with **Alistair Drake** (UNSW/Australian Defence Force Academy) on a joint project to collect and identify the locusts that the Insect Monitoring Radar at Bourke tracks during locust seasons. In mid January, Martin and **Alison Rodgers** returned to Tambo, Qld, for one week to collect the first half of the wood billet and litter bag baits they set down in late September 2005. These baits are being used to quantify the impact previous locust control operations using Fipronil have had on populations of endemic termites. **Theo Evans** and other members of the Termite Research group at CSIRO Entomology are collaborating on this project to identify the genera/species of locust that occur in Tambo.

Martin STEINBAUER

ANIC

As usual at this time of year, things have been fairly quiet in Canberra and ANIC, but there has still been a healthy level of activity.

The highlight of the last couple of months was the combined invertebrates conference that was held at ANU in December. The conference included the 7th meeting of the Invertebrate Biodiversity and Conservation group, the Australian Entomological Society's 36th Annual General Meeting and Conference, and the conference of the Society of Australian Systematic Biologists. The combined conference was a great success, with over 320 registered delegates and well over 250 scientific presentations in 20 symposia and many contributed paper sessions.

Particular highlights of the conference included the 5 keynote speakers (**Simon Ferrier**, NSWPWLS; **Fred Gould**, North Carolina State University; **Steve Simpson**, University of Sydney; **Bob Hill**, University of Adelaide; and **Tim Entwistle**, NSWRBG).

Australian Wool Innovations sponsored a symposium on the potential for genetic control of the sheep blowfly, organized by **Rod Mahon**. Thursday and Friday of the Conference were sponsored by the ARC Environmental Futures Research Network, and another highlight of the conference was the Thursday symposium on the effect of aridification on the flora and fauna of Australia over the past 25 million years. This symposium brought together geological, paleoclimatic, botanical and zoological perspectives on the great Australian drying. On the Saturday after the Conference ARC network members further discussed this research perspective.

All those who were at the conference dinner will remember for years to come the entertainment provided by after dinner speaker **Dr Tony Peacock**, from the Invasive Animals CRC. The organizing committee, chaired by **David Yeates**, would like to thank **Sally Brown**, the conference organizer, and all those who attended and contributed, for the success of the conference. A PDF version of the abstracts volume from the conference is available on request from david.yeates@csiro.au.

The 14th Biennial National Agriculture Educators' conference was held in Canberra in January, and one of the workshops available to delegates was an afternoon with ANIC staff on insect collection methods, laboratory specimen preparation, and a tour of the ANIC. Under the guidance of **Tom Weir, Cate Lemann** and **Ben Boyd**, about 20 Ag. teachers from Australia and New Zealand and a local ABC reporter braved the sun and the bull ants in the bush behind CSIRO Entomology to learn a bit about different trapping techniques. They then retreated to the blissful cool of the collection halls for demonstrations of extraction, sorting, labelling and pinning, before a quick tour of the collection. The afternoon was a great success, and as a result of positive feedback from the teachers, the co-ordinator from CSIRO Discovery is keen to prepare some information kits for teachers and other interested groups.

We were fortunate to have the company of a number of students under the CSIRO Summer Studentship Program: **Ema Falez** (Deakin University) looking for nematodes in dead eucalyptus wood; **Sarah Fayed** (University of New England) hunting for parasitoids of agromyzid flies; **Thomas Wallenius** (ANU), working on beetle pollinators of cycads; and **Chris Manchester** (ANU) collecting and rearing agromyzid leaf miners.

Our recent and current visitors include **Monty Wood** (Ottawa), carrying out a 3 month preliminary study for a Lucid key to Australian Tachinidae; **Paul Zborowski**, working with Ted Edwards on a new popular book on Australian moths, based on Paul's photos of live specimens; and **Sonja Scheffer** (Beltsville), for planning of a possible sabbatical project on molecular systematics of Australian Agromyzidae.

ANIC received a magnificent and beautifully curated collection of 22 drawers of butterflies of the genus *Delias*, collected in Australia, New Guinea and southeast Asia by **Fred Gerrits**. **Marianne Horak** is looking forward to the imminent publication of her monograph on the Olethreutinae, with **Ted Edwards**, is planning an major new project on sequencing mitochondrial DNA from hundreds of species of Lepidoptera from ANIC, in collaboration with **Paul Hebert** (Canada) and **Andrew Mitchell** (NSW DPI, Orange).

In the Coleoptera team, **Adam Slipinski** visited a number of European museums to check types of coccinelids for his forthcoming monograph. Adam is also very pleased to announce the award of a Tree of Life grant for a study of the phylogeny of all Coleoptera. The 4 year project is led by **Brian Farrell** (Harvard), and will involve collaboration from a range of different institutions. Adam and **John Lawrence** will be responsible for the morphological end of the project.

A significant event in Hymenoptera was the launch of a new web site on parasitoids of *Liriomyza* flies, which are important pests of vegetables in southeast Asia (http://www.ento.csiro.au/science/Liriomyza_ver3/index.html). The hymenopterists also published a paper (*AJE* **44**, 409-414) describing a wasp named after the character Shrek, with the youngest author ever to publish a scientific paper with Blackwells (8 years). Visitors included **Matt Buffington** (California) and **Andy Deans** (Florida), who visited to incorporate data from Australian groups into the Hymenoptera Tree of Life project.

The thrips room has seen its usual level of activity. The dynamic duo from Narrabri, **Simone Heimoana** and **Tanya Smith**, arrived with a crate full of thrips in tubes to tackle the question posed by **Lewis Wilson** - what are the common species around the cotton crop? **Brenda Kranz** of Adelaide University, studying viviparity in spore-feeding thrips, returned from India with many species needing identification. **Desley Tree** of QDPI, Indooroopilly spent one week extending her knowledge of thrips, having found two more Thripidae not previously known in Australia. **Kambiz Minaei** is here for several months from Iran studying *Haplothrips* and related genera of Australia. And celebrating Christmas Day in their usual way, **Laurence Mound** and **Alice Wells** collected another new species in Canberra's mountains.

Christine Lambkin amazed us all by doing fieldwork in the summer heat at Yathong Nature Reserve, but was rewarded by good collections of bee flies and stiletto flies. **Bruce Halliday** attended a conference at Young where delegates compared notes on recent outbreaks of wheat streak mosaic virus and its vector the wheat curl mite, which are causing serious damage to the NSW wheat crop.

We had occasion for two small celebrations just before Christmas. First, a barbecue to thank the ANIC volunteers for reaching a total of 40,000 hours of time they have put into the collection. Chief **Joanne Daly** presented volunteers with framed certificates thanking each of them for up to five years of valuable service. Second, the databasing team celebrated the milestone of entering information from 300,000 specimens into the ANIC specimen database. Only 10 million to go!

Bruce HALLIDAY

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

UWA Centre For forensic Science

Ian Dadour has been invited to teach the forensic entomology component in the 6 day FBI Human Remains Recovery Course at University of Tennessee in March 2006. A number of students from the centre have been granted permission to also attend the course. The Australian and New Zealand Forensic Science 18th International Symposium on the Forensic Sciences will be held at the Esplanade Hotel in Fremantle in Early April. A discrete symposium on Forensic Entomology is being held with 8 international and local speakers.

NAQS

Tony Postle has been transferred to Cairns where he is currently involved with the entomological threats posed by illegal foreign fishing vessels.

Murdoch University WA State Agricultural Biotechnology Centre

Modika Perera (Plant Biotechnology research group) attended the recombinant antibody training workshop for diagnostics held in November at the Department of Primary Industries, Indooroopilly, Queensland. It was an intensive workshop facilitated by Wouter van Wyngaardt, Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute, Onderstepoort, Republic of South Africa. The participants were given hands on practical training on the entire panning process for screening antibody libraries, using a large semi-synthetic single-chain Fv

phage display library based on chicken immunoglobulin genes (Nkuku recombinant antibody library). During the workshop, antigens from different plant pathogens were selected for hi-affinity antibodies using this library. The overall result of the workshop was very promising, and this library will be a valuable tool for immunodiagnostics of pathogens including insect diagnostics. This workshop was organised by CRC for National Plant Biosecurity and funded by Plant Health Australia and Australian Government through the "enhancing diagnostic expertise network" project. Modika is looking forward to use the tools and techniques learned from this workshop for the next step of her current project to develop specific antibodies to different nematode species and also for diagnostics of insect pests particularly for early detection of exotic pest in biosecurity applications.

Modika also attended 7th International Symposium on aphids held at Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, Perth in October. She represented Murdoch University and gave an oral presentation entitled "Identification of aphid species using protein profiling and matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry". This work also has published recently and details are as follows: **Modika R Perera, Ruben D. Flores Vargas & Michael G.K. Jones (2005)** Identification of aphid species using protein profiling and matrix-assisted laser desorption/ionization time–of–flight mass spectrometry. ***Entomologia Experimentalis et Applicata* 117**: 243-247.

Overall the International aphid Symposium was a well organised, successful event with over 100 participants. During the symposium Modika was able to meet and establish linkages with many international experts working on aphids.

WA Department of Agriculture

Little to report with a slow start of the new year. Sonya Broughton, David Cousins and team continue to report that WA remains free of currant lettuce aphid.

QUEENSLAND – FAR NORTH

QDPI&F

Jane Royer has been working on updating the red banded mango caterpillar (*Deanolis sublimbalis)* contingency plan and aligning it with the Plant Health Australia. The updated plan will incorporate recent research including ACIAR funded research on pest biology, control and pheromones being conducted by **Bruno Pinese**, in PNG and the northern tip of Cape York. Jane has also been busy auditing the national fruit fly traps in the north Queensland region. A new detection of crazy ant in Cairns was made prior to Christmas with an ant being brought in by a concerned member of the public. The Department of Natural Resources is managing the response.

Roger Sutton from the UK visited **Ross Storey** at QDPI&F Mareeba. Roger is a butterfly enthusiast being especially interested in conservation issues. **Justin Bartlett** made a quick trip to north Queensland over Christmas 2005. Justin hoped to do some collections of Cleridae but found conditions too dry. He did visit the QDPI&F's Mareeba collection to do some 'internal collecting' and also provided names of several unidentified specimens. **Leone Wittenberg** has been appointed to QDPI&F in Mareeba working on a survey of Mango Seed Weevil, *Sternochetus mangiferae* (Fabricius, 1775) in the Mareeba area. **Kylie Brown** has been also appointed as a temp to provide assistance.

Stefan and **Olga Schmidt** of the Zoologische Staatssammlung München in Munich Germany visited **Dave Rentz** in December 2005. Stefan works on hymenopterous parasites of whiteflies and Olga geometrid moths including Australian species. **Prof. Ian Dadour** visited Kuranda from the University of Western Australia. Ian is Director of the Centre for Forensic Science at that institution.

JCU Ross Crozier reports of a new grant worth $1m over five years, which commenced on the 1st of January. Ross

and his partner investigator **Prof. Paul Schmid-Hempel** of the ETH (Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich) will be investigating the evolutionary immunology of social insects. Other collaborators include JCU's **Dr Simon Robson**, ETH's **Dr Regula Schmid-Hempel**, AIMS's **Dr David Bourne**, University of Hokkaido's **Prof. Eisuke Hasegawa**, Simon Fraser University's **Prof. Andy Beckenbach**, and the UK Institute of Animal Health's **Dr Paul-Michael Agapow**. The grant includes the funding of a postdoc position, and half-funding of an APF for Ross. The research will focus on ants and bumblebees, and contine the existing program which has largely produced papers on termites.

Darryl Kemp has returned to JCUon a 3-year ARC funded postdoc and research grant to study the development, genetics and adaptive significance of structurally-generated ultraviolet colouration in butterflies. The exerpt from Darryls ARC proposal is: "Many animals generate brilliant iridescent colouration using nanometre-scale surface structures. Recent investigation into these traits have revealed hitherto unknown optical effects, however we know very little of their biological significance. One idea is that nanostructurally-generated colour has evolved as a sexual signal because it contains unique and honest information regarding condition and/or genetic viability (i.e. good genes). A presently unrealized opportunity to study this phenomenon is presented by the structural reflectance exhibited on many butterfly wings. I propose the first quantitative genetic and behavioural analysis of the developmental properties and biological significance of nanostructural ultraviolet reflectance in butterflies."

All went well with **Kylie Anderson's** PhD Confirmation seminar, and she is now busy organising her first field trip to Bamaga and the Torres Strait. Kylie caught up with **Peter Allsopp** during his brief trip to the Far North which saw him finalising an SRDC project.

AQIS NAQS There have been several staff changes at the lab in Mareeba. As reported previously, **Judy Grimshaw** remains on long service leave pending her retirement in April, but still heads to the office weekly, and amongst other things provides ID's for spiders. She is also finally finding time to write up several papers. **Anthony Rice** is warmly welcomed as NAQS Queensland entomologist. Anthony hails from Tasmania, where he just completed his PhD entitled 'The larval parasitoid guild of *Chrysophtharta agricola* (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae): host-parasitoid ecological and developmental interactions'. **Donna MacLeod** has resigned and is now a supply teacher. She has been temporarily replaced by **Anne-Marie McKinnon** until the position is advertised. **Tony Postle** has migrated from Broome WA to the more populous Cairns, but makes regular trips to Mareeba to help with fruit fly identifications.

QUEENSLAND - SOUTH

Entomology at QUT

Fruit fly work continues to develop at QUT with new students and projects. **Peter Leach** of the QDPI post-harvest group has enrolled as an externally-based, full-time student studying heat tolerance in *Bactrocera jarvisi*, one of those flies which everyone hopes will go away, but never quite does. Peter will remain based in his office at Cairns, with travel to Brisbane as required. Ms **Sakuntala Muthuthantri** joins the group from Sri Lanka, funded through a QUT International Student scholarship, and will work on fruit fly foraging behavior. **Ms Amanda Mararuai** successfully completed her Postgrad. Dip. Appl. Sc. last year and will commence her M. Appl. Sc. this year, analysing the temporal and spatial distribution of PNG pest fruit flies using GIS tools. Congratulations to **Amy Carmichael** whose review of the fruit fly infesting opiine braconids of the South Pacific appeared in the last issue of Bull Ent Res for 2005: this paper forms the back-bone of Amy's

masters thesis. **Tony Clarke** will have a small involvement in a new ACIAR funded PNG frit fly project headed by **Andrew Jessup**.

In November, Tony, **Mark Ero** and **David Elmouttie** all travelled up to Aiyura, Eastern Highlands Province, PNG, for the launch of grower recommendations from the ACIAR Oribius project. The launch was part of the formal activities of a farmer field day which attracted over 3000 local growers from all over Eastern Highlands: a good day was had by all. Oribius weevils are little known in Australia, with the genus of approximately 50 species being almost entirely restricted to the island of New Guinea. However, within PNG, *Oribius* is a highly significant pest genus, with project data showing production increases of 100-300% are the norm on most horticultural crops when the herbivorous, adult weevils (which are flightless) are excluded. Lowland, coastal species of *Oribius* should almost certainly be considered for Australian quarantine target lists and this point will be made in manuscripts currently being prepared.

University of Queensland

The old year ended with a lot of travelling for **Myron Zalucki**; China (with **Mike Furlong** on an ACIAR project), Vietnam and Indonesia (with **TK Lim** reviewing an ACIAR citrus greening project), Fiji, Tonga and Samoa (with **Mike Furlong** and **Bronwyn Walsh** on an ACIAR Brassica Pest Management project), India (an Entomology Conference in Ludhiana) and Sri Lanka (visiting **Sampath Walgama** a postgraduate student). Somewhere in that lot he visited **Kylie Anderson** in Cairns to talk about her project! That's why Myron could not make it to the Canberra meeting. Rumour has it he is on study leave in the first part of 2006 and will be travelling again!

In India **Myron was made a Fellow of the Indian Society for the Advancement of Insect Science** for his contributions in the cause of insect science.

Marie-Louise Johnson, a perennial entomological 'journeyman', left Brisbane for a "permanent job" in Canberra. In her most recent entomological incarnation **Marie-Louise** had been employed by QDPI&F but was based on UQ campus and worked on Helicoverpa foraging behaviour. We wish her well.

Work on modelling caterpillar foraging behaviour will continue with an ARC grant to **Bronwen Cribb, Jim Hanan and Myron Zalucki**. They are looking for a quantitatively bent behavioural entomologists type to undertake research leading to a PhD in this area (Contact Myron Zalucki if interested).

Mike Furlong travelled down to Canberra with **Bronwyn Walsh (QDPI&F)** for a meeting on an ACIAR project in Indonesia that will involve folk working on seed potatoes and IPM in cabbages.

Congratulations to **Preap Visarto and Andrew Davis** for being awarded PhD's.
Megan Ward has started her PhD research work on pollination, seed and invasive weeds using milkweeds as a model system and **Nikki Sims** has begun work on the impact of introduced agents on groundsel bush.
Mark Scriber (Michigan State University) visited UQ and worked on host relation in Australian Papilio with **Myron Zalucki** and **Michelle Larsen**. Apart from interesting battles with AQIS on permits to import North American species he did manage to get some results with the local fauna. Mark has moved to Tasmania to join **Geoff Allen** before returning to Michigan in late January. **Mark Wade** has finished one postdoc with **Steve Wratten** and has returned to Brisbane for interviews on another job.

Gimme Walter's lab has seen a range of activities over the last few months, with installation of a new EAG system and acquisition of an "electronic nose" for detection of volatiles. Research on cycad pollination was extended this season with

Irene Terry and **Bob Roemer** (University of Utah) visiting for three months, and with PhD candidate **John Hall's** research trips to the Rockampton area. **Stefan** and **Olga Schmidt** (State Zoological Collection, Munich) were also here for a month, which rejuvenated the sawfly research. Otherwise the lab was quiet with a lot of local fieldwork - **Lindsay Popple** in the brigalow belt, **Mary Finlay Doney** in the Mundubbera and Glasshouse Mountains areas, **Rukmowati** in Gatton, **Adriana Najar** in Narrabri and **Andrew Manners** in the glasshouse at Alan Fletcher Research Station.

Andrew Ridley showed some uncharacteristic signs of stress as his PhD thesis on the Fiji Disease Virus - planthopper - sugarcane system reached the submission stage. He has since moved on to helping **John Volin** (on Sabbatical at UQ from Florida Atlantic University) on *Lygodium* biocontrol. **Michelle Rafter** achieved a first class honours degree with her work on South African citrus thrips. Lindsay Popple (PhD candidate on Pauropsalta cicadas and their songs) gave a paper at the International Bioacoustics Congress held recently in Slovenia.

News from QDPI&F

Greg Daglish visited the **Philippines** in August and December 2005 in relation to postharvest handling of rice and maize. Over the years the **Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research** has supported research on minimising postharvest losses especially those caused by insects. Greg helped review the impact of these projects and identify opportunities for future research and extension effort. Greg was pleased to catch up with a number of Filipinos who had also studied entomology at the University of Queensland.

Army Malaria Institute

Bob Cooper and **Rob Marlow** spent a month in April-May 2005 in Hanoi, Vietnam to continue a collaborative project to study malaria vectors in central Vietnam with the Vietnamese Army, and Bob then returned for 6 weeks in September and October. Bob also attended the Asia Pacific Military Medicine meeting in Hanoi and co-authored a paper on field and lab work on the vectors of malaria in Vietnam. **Steve Frances** completed a field trial in April at Tin Can Bay, Qld, to evaluate the effectiveness and persistence of 2 insecticides for the treatment of military tent fabrics. Following on from this trial, the institute is now

conducting a longitudinal survey of mosquitoes and arboviruses at Wide Bay Training area, with several months of collections already being made. In October 2005, **Steve Frances** attended the 4th International Congress of the Society of Vector Ecology in Reno, Nevada, and then visited US Army colleagues at Fort Sam Huston, in San Antonio, Texas

Le QuangTao from the Military Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology, Department of Military Medicine, Hanoi, Vietnam, visited AMI for 4 months between May and August, last year.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

After three enjoyable years, **Glenys Wood** has handed over the AES Regional Councillor role to a new councillor (well recycled anyway!) **John Jennings**.

SARDI (Entomology)

Glenys Wood and the Revegetation by Design team were lucky to have a two-day visit from **Laurence Mound** in the second week of January. Lawrence, Glenys and Tony Burfield spent a day collecting thrips from native vegetation and talking to growers at trial sites in Virginia on the northern Adelaide Plain. As ever, back at

the lab, Lawrence had a captive audience as he generously sorted out our taxonomic queries. Time with Lawrence is always great value!

University of Adelaide

John Jennings chaired the 16th AGM of the Council of Heads of Australian Entomological Collections held at ANIC 4 Dec 2005. John was also re-elected Chairman for a further term. Please visit the website http://flyaqis.mov.vic.gov.au/chaec/index.html Useful information about collection contacts, collecting permits, national parks, etc is gradually being added to the site.

A large contingent from the university presented papers and/or posters at the Australian Entomological Society's 36th AGM and Scientific Conference/7th Invertebrate Biodiversity and Conservation Conference/Australian Systematics Society at ANU. They included **Adam Allford, Andy Austin, Danielle Carey, Michelle Guzic, John Jennings, Brenda Kranz, Tim Moulds, Kate Muirhead, Nick Murphy, Catherine Paull, Claire Stephens, Nick Stevens,** and **Gary Taylor**.

John Jennings, Nick Stevens and **Kate Muirhead** are presenting papers at the 6th International Conference of Hymenopterists 22-26 Jan 2006, Sun City, Republic of South Africa.

Lachlan Farrington from the University of Canberra has joined the group as a post doc with **Jose Facelli** and **Andy Austin** on a project investigating orchid pollination and population structure.

John JENNINGS

University of Adelaide

John Jennings chaired the 16th AGM of the Council of Heads of Australian Entomological Collections held at ANIC 4 Dec 2005. John was also re-elected Chairman for a further term. Please visit the website http://flyaqis.mov.vic.gov.au/chaec/index.html Useful information about collection contacts, collecting permits, national parks, etc is gradually being added to the site.

A large contingent from the university presented papers and/or posters at the Australian Entomological Society's 36th AGM and Scientific Conference/7th Invertebrate Biodiversity and Conservation Conference/Australian Systematics Society at ANU. They included **Adam Allford, Andy Austin, Danielle Carey, Michelle Guzic, John Jennings, Brenda Kranz, Tim Moulds, Kate Muirhead, Nick Murphy, Catherine Paull, Claire Stephens, Nick Stevens,** and **Gary Taylor**.

John Jennings, Nick Stevens and **Kate Muirhead** are presenting papers at the 6th International Conference of Hymenopterists 22-26 Jan 2006, Sun City, Republic of South Africa.

Lachlan Farrington from the University of Canberra has joined the group as a post doc with Jose Facelli and **Andy Austin** on a project investigating orchid pollination and population structure.

John JENNINGS

VICTORIA

Recently DPI Tatura entomologist Dr. Alex Il'ichev was invited to deliver a presentation on pheromone based IPM at the International Organisation for Biological Control (IOBC) meeting "Integrated Plant Protection in Fruit Crops" in Norway held 4-8 October 2005 in Stavanger. Also Dr. Alex Il'ichev (Australia) and Prof. Jiawei Du (China) organised and conducted symposium S06.1-E. "Semiochemicals – Practical Application" during the 5-th Asia-Pacific Congress of Entomology held 17-21 October in Jeju, South Korea, where Alex delivered an invited presentation titled: "Advanced mating disruption application techniques in semiochemical based IPM in Australian

orchards". During the Congress, the General Assembly of the Asia-Pacific Association of Chemical Ecologists (APACE) elected Dr. Alex Il'ichev as the APACE Councillor (2005-2007) representing Australia at this International forum of chemical ecologists. Alex also visited Michigan State University, USA, where he is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Entomology. International collaboration with eminent entomologists from MSU (Prof. Larry Gut, Prof. Jim Miller, Prof. Mark Whalon) also provides opportunities for joint supervision of PhD students in DPI, Tatura, Australia and MSU, USA.

CESAR, University of Melbourne

Expanding the use of chironomids as bioindicators continues at CESAR with several talks presented at the Australian Society of Limnology Conference in Hobart (December 2005). Renee Cox gave an update of her work on chironomids as indicators of salinity.

Integrated Pest Management for the Horse Farm is a project of **Cindy Edwards** funded by the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation. The reliance of chemicals to control internal parasites of the horse has led to resistance. The project aims to develop a biological program that integrates biological control, cultural control and chemical control to maintain a sustainable horse farm. Exotic summer and winter active dung beetle cultures have been introduced to six of the ten trial sites. Dung beetles destroy the parasite habitat by burying the dung lessening the parasite burden in the pasture. The burying of dung provides nutrients and aeration to the pasture. The monitoring of invertebrates in the horse pasture has found many other predating insects that habitat dung and pasture. Cockchafers have been found to be a major pasture pest of the horse pasture and integrated management packages are being established to control pest and parasite burdens.

Department of Primary Industries Knoxfield

Taxonomy Section

Mali Malipatil and Murray Fletcher (NSW DPI F, Orange) visited Malaysia to conduct a workshop on identification of plant sucking bugs (Hemiptera) at the Institute of Biological Sciences, Universiti Malaya in Kuala Lumpur during 21-25 November. Mali covered the heteropteran bugs and coccoids, and Murray the Auchenorrhyncha and other Sternorrhynchan groups. This workshop was conducted as a component of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Capacity Building Program managed by SPS CBP section (Director **Ian Naumann**) of the Australian Government Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry on behalf of AusAID. The feedback from the 16 very enthusiastic participants, mostly quarantine officers with a few entomologists and taxonomists, from several ASEAN countries including Laos, Brunei, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Philippines and Malaysia, was very positive. Murray and Mali felt the experience and the interaction with the participants was rewarding and enjoyable.

The PHA sponsored APPD databasing and validation work is progressing well with almost 40% of the VAIC now databased, largely through the efforts of **John Wainer**. John is also doing some lettuce aphid survey identification work. Still with aphids, **Isabel Valenzuela** (DPI/CESAR Melbourne University) is well advanced with her Ph.D. project, supervised by **Ary Hoffmann**, Mali and **Peter Ridland**, and recently presented a paper on clonal diversity in Australian populations of *Rhopalosiphum padi* at 7th International Symposium on Aphids at Fremantle 2-7 October 2005. As part of this project, Isabel has been undertaking molecular diagnostic work on a number of major pest aphid species, including the currant-lettuce aphid *Nasonavia ribisnigri* that is now established in Victoria. The molecular identification of currant-lettuce aphid using RFLP markers has just been completed and a protocol is being written up, as the first diagnostic capability for this pest in Australia.

Diagnostic work on exotic pest *Liriomyza* leafminers is continuing, with a LUCID morphological key for the dozen or so major

exotic pest species, as well as a few Australian pest species, is expected to be completed by Mali and Peter Ridland within the next few months. This key will be to some extent parallel to the leafminer parasitoid key that John LaSalle and colleagues have made available on the CSIRO website. In the mean time, **Linda Semeraro** is trying to complete the molecular diagnostic work on a few major exotic pest species that Tracey Bjorksten commenced a couple of years ago while at CESAR. Mali has been assisting **Adrian Rokimov**, a Melbourne University/CESAR Ph.D. student based at DPI Mildura, with the identifications for his project on grapevine scales and parasitoids from Australian vineyards.

Linda THOMSON

COMING EVENTS

Australian Entomological Society
37th Annual General Meeting and Scientific Conference 2006
joint conference with
Entomological Society of New Zealand
Annual Meeting 2006

North Terrace Campus, University of Adelaide
24-27 September 2006

A call for registrations and notification of deadlines for papers will be made in February.

Dennis Hopkins
on behalf of the
Organising Committee

SOCIETY AWARDS

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
FOR THE 2006 IAN MACKERRAS MEDAL
FOR EXCELLENCE IN ENTOMOLOGY

The Executive invites nominations of Society members for the 10th award of the Ian Mackerras Medal, in 2006.

Those wishing to nominate a member for the award of the medal should bear in mind that:

(a) Only financial members of the Society who will be under the age of 50 years in September 2006 are eligible for nomination (birthdate no earlier than October 1956)

(b) A candidate must be nominated by not fewer than two financial members of the Society

(c) Proposers of a candidate shall, not less than six months prior to the Annual General Meeting in September 2006 (ie by March 2006), provide the Secretary with a detailed statement including the candidate's name, date of birth, academic distinctions, relevant appointments and membership of societies, a list of the candidate's more important publications, and a statement of not more than 500 words explaining why the

candidate deserves this distinction in entomology.

(d) A Selection Committee for award of the medal will consist of the President (convenor) and four senior members of the Society. Nominees or signatories to a nomination are barred from serving on the Selection Committee.

(e) Should the Committee recommend to the Executive that an award be made, the name of the recipient will be announced and, if possible, the Medal presented during the week of the 37th Annual General Meeting in Adelaide in September 2006.

Nominations are required to be with the Secretary **not later than 31 March 2006**.
Associate Professor Geoff Gurr,
c/- Faculty of Rural Management,
Charles Sturt University,
Leeds Parade,
Orange, NSW 2800 Australia.

GENERAL INTEREST

The International Organisation for Biological Control currently has very few members from Australia and New Zealand! This is a rather sorry state of affairs for two countries that have such a wealth of experience in biocontrol in many different cropping areas. My previous letter a year ago unfortunately fell on deaf ears, but please make a new year's resolution to follow this one up. If you have comments, positive or negative, please get back to me. The new executive of the IOBC under Prof. Joop van Lenteren has made major strides in re-organising and is anxious for IOBC to become more relevant to this region.

As a recently appointed IOBC Global Vice President, I am keen to return those of you to the fold who have lapsed, and to generate some new blood. Collectively we have a great deal to contribute, and as part of a larger group we have more clout in policy and research decision making on a global scale. Those interested in learning more about this important organisation can access the IOBC Global Website at http://www.iobc-global.org. The latest Newsletter (October 2005) can be accessed from this website and makes interesting reading.

Interested in joining? Australian and New Zealand members should join as a member of the Asia and the Pacific Regional Section (APRS). Australia and New Zealand members are being considered as a subgroup of APRS, but need members active in the organisation to initiate activities with regional interest. Payment of fees goes *direct to IOBC Global*, which retains a portion and returns the remainder to the Section or subgroup for regional activities. Assistance is rather difficult without financial contributions from the region! Depending on the number of members from the region, we can contribute to the APRS newsletter, do our own, or contribute directly to the IOBC Global newsletter. It is up to you whether you want to form a strong regional group. The subgroup can elect a Vice-President to APRS from among its members, but it needs a core group of active participants to drive activities. Would you be interested in participating? Please let me know.

How much? Individual membership fee for this region is a very reasonable **20€** annually, payable to the Treasurer of IOBC Global by credit card (VISA/MASTERCARD) or money transfer. Send your fee to the Treasurer, Dr Lise Stengård Hansen (LiseS.Hansen@agrsci.dk). Details of payment options are posted on the website. The application form is appended. The financial year is a calendar year i.e. *fees are due January 1.* The journal BioControl is also available to members at a discounted price of 94€, usually 400€.

What is possible? Members can join working groups or set up a new working group with some funding and support. Working groups can be offshoots of IOBC Global or of Regional Sections. There are

currently 10 IOBC Global Working Groups. The WPRS (West Palearctic Regional Section) has 19 working groups and sometimes study groups. At least one of these is sure to be of interest to you! For example, Stephen Goodwin and myself are regular participants in the Working Group 'Integrated Control in Protected Crops, Temperate Climate', which comes under the WPRS. It meets every three years in different countries, mostly in Europe but last time in Finland. It has proved enormously fruitful in generating ideas, collaborative research etc. Please access the IOBC Global Website for information on existing working groups. Many opportunities arise for joint activities. For example, in August 2004, NRS and APRS jointly organised a symposium on Pest Management in Protected Crops at the International Congress of Entomology in Brisbane. Meetings of IOBC members can be tacked onto regional Conferences etc. to make it economically feasible to get together. There is a possibility that the upcoming joint meeting of the entomological societies of Australia and New Zealand in Adelaide this year, September 24-27, might be such a vehicle.

Newsworthy items to report? Activities, meetings, books, ideas etc. Send to myself (marilyn.steiner@dpi.nsw.gov.au) or to the General Secretary Prof. Dr. S. Colazza (colazza@unipa.it). The IOBC Internet Book of Biological Control (check the IOBC website) is a work in progress and a great idea, but it needs contributions from Australian and New Zealand.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Cheers

Marilyn Steiner
marilyn.steiner@dpi.nsw.gov.au

THE AUSTRALIAN ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY SHOP

GARMENTS

Polo shirts $25

Collared Sweatshirts $40

Sizes (men's): S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL 5XL (the fit is generous). Small is approx a women's size 12; L approx 16-18.

3 designs

Honey pot ant (Melophorus bagoti)	One embroidered honeypot ant on front of garment
Ant trails	Two embroidered ant trails on front of garment
Mitchell's diurnal cockroach (Polyzosteria mitchelli)	4 cockroaches embroidered on the front and back of the garment

Glasses $15

Drinking glass suitable for water, juice, whiskey, with a bull ant (Myrmecia) engraved on the bottom.

Coasters $5

Made of anodised aluminium, backed with felt, and engraved with a bull ant (Myrmecia).

Ant pin $45

We took a real bull ant that was coated with gold to the jeweller and asked him to make some for us in solid silver. Only 100 made.

Photographs of all merchandise can be viewed at the society's website.
http://www.agric.nsw.gov.au/Hort/ascu/myrmecia/shop.htm

Postage & Handling

Within Australia

We will use prepaid parcel post satchels for small orders of unbreakable merchandise (500g or 3kg).
For one polo shirt within Australia, add $5.00.
For one or 2 sweatshirts or 2-5 polo shirts, add $9.00.
For larger or more complex orders, please send an enquiry to jane.wright@csiro.au and she'll come back to you within several days on a price. Otherwise, just send your order through with the credit card details and you will be charged for the cheapest way to make your delivery.

Overseas orders

Postage rates will be higher. Contact jane.wright@csiro.au

Order Forms

An order/tax invoice form can be downloaded from the society's website. Send your orders to Jane Wright by fax on (02) 6246 4094, email to jane.wright@csiro.au or mail to CSIRO Entomology, GPO Box 1700, Canberra, ACT 2601.

MEMBERSHIP NOMINATION FORM

To obtain a nomination form, please download from
http://www.agric.nsw.gov.au/Hort/ascu/myrmecia/aesmemform.pdf.